The story so far

Glenesk is the northernmost of the Angus glens; it is a place with a deep sense of history and a landscape of rugged beauty that has a great attraction to visitors both local and from around the world.

## Glenesk Folk Museum is an independent museum owned and operated by The Glenesk Trust (Charity No.SC035318). The Trust is responsible for the museum, its collections and contained assets. Glenesk Trust is a community organisation on the southern edge of the Cairngorm National Park.

The Trust’s mission is to foster and share a passion for and understanding of Glenesk, by connecting our visitors and users with its past, present and future. This is primarily achieved through the running and promotion of Glenesk Folk Museum.

‘From this place … in this place’ the museum collects and cares for objects that tell the story of Glenesk. It exhibits these objects in Glenesk – the very place where they were used and owned.

 ‘It is the amassing of these things right here which give them potency. Each object is linked in some way to another in the collection, in a vibrating ribbon of lives lived in this landscape.’

The vision of the Glenesk Trust is to continue to cherish and tell the stories of its history and people both for the community and the wider world.

The museum holds a remarkable collection which tells the story of rural Scotland that engages both the casual visitor and visitors with deep familial ties to the land; it is also a superb resource for creative and academic investigation.

There is no other organisation within Glenesk that offers both heritage and hospitality. The building is well appointed and equipped with many facilities and only 10 short miles from Edzell. The challenges for heritage, hospitality and retail are universal to any community visitor-based organisation that is set within a sparsely populated and rural location. These are the challenges but they are also the attraction of this remarkable place.

The museum was founded in 1955 by Margaret Fairweather Michie, known as Greta. She was a child of the Glen, local historian and schoolteacher who continued postgraduate research into the depopulation of the Angus glens. Throughout her lifetime she created an extensive collection which tells the story of Glenesk, its people and the landscape. It reaches from the Bronze Age to the mid 20th century, with an emphasis on the 19th century. In an old shooting lodge, cottage and stable building, Greta Michie with other glen residents and supporters, created local history displays in the spirit of the ‘new living history’ aesthetic, alongside craft and domestic demonstrations. Greta Michie was determined to communicate the rural way of life that was fading with the depopulation of the Angus glens.

A major refurbishment of the buildings was funded and completed in 2006 creating new storage space and museum galleries with improved access. This was followed in 2009 by the opening of a dedicated agricultural display area in the old stable block.

Historically, Glenesk Folk Museum was run by local residents. The dwindling population has affected that local recruitment and the location of the museum makes it a challenge to recruit staff and volunteers from outwith Glenesk.

 The Museum has strong historic ties to the people of surrounding areas through farming and land use traditions, trade, markets and marriages and there are also global connections with the Glen diaspora who also view the Museum as an important element in their family’s story.

Historian Professor Hugh Cheape, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the University of the Highlands and Islands, recognises the Glenesk Folk Museum's place in telling Scotland's story through its 'significant legacy of social and rural history'.

The Museum has succeeded in receiving funding from Museums Galleries Scotland, Garfield Weston Foundation, Foyle Foundation, Scottish Inheritance Fund and seeks to continue relationships with funding bodies.

Glenesk Folk Museum is currently ‘Working Towards Accreditation’ and anticipates a successful application outcome within the next year.